

Washington, DC - Yesterday, ICE agents apprehended two undocumented immigrants working at Randolph AFB in Converse, Texas, on construction site crews.

Congressman Charlie Gonzalez stated, "We should not be surprised at this latest news. Employers have been able to circumvent the worksite laws and not comply with the nation's immigration policy for years. While I believe the federal government has a duty to assist employers in establishing the legal status of a prospective employee, this does not relieve the employer of the responsibility of exercising due diligence in making sure they are complying with existing immigration law."

The Congressman introduced legislation last year that would have imposed significantly higher fines on employers found hiring undocumented immigrants. His bill would have imposed a \$50,000 fine for every undocumented immigrant hired; currently, employers are only fined \$5,000 per incident. "Current law provides little incentive for employers to play by the rules," noted the Congressman.

Gonzalez added, "I would expect the military will review all its contracts and make abundantly clear to the contractors that hiring undocumented immigrants is an illegal practice and will subject the employers to prosecution and the loss of government contracts."

The Congressman plans to introduce legislation in the upcoming 110th Congress to prohibit employers who hire undocumented workers from receiving federal contracts. He will also re-introduce his employer sanction legislation, H.R. 4437.